GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:975
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
SEIZURE OF ANIMAL SKIN AND OTHER WILDLIFE PRODUCTS
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of animal skins and other wildlife products were seized recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated value of these goods;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the culprits; and

(d) the steps/action proposed to be taken to check the killing of such wildlife animals particularly the endangered species?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a)to(c) Details of recent major seizures of wildlife and wildlife articles as reported by the State/UT Governments are at Annexure. As these are of illegal nature, economic value of the seized articles cannot be estimated.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network a five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme −Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including endangered species.

5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals and prevent poaching:

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.

2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.

4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.

5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.